



sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland at the Pratt & Whitney project announcement in Asheville October 22.

Gov. Cooper Announces 800 Jobs in Asheville as Pratt & Whitney Selects North Carolina for Major Facility

In what is believed to be the largest industrial economic development project ever announced in Western North Carolina, **Governor Roy Cooper** revealed that Pratt & Whitney will invest approximately \$650 million and create 800 jobs in Asheville.

The project, announced October 22, will bring a new high-tech turbine airfoil production facility to Buncombe County. **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** traveled to Asheville for a socially-distanced event to mark the occasion.

"We are positioning North Carolina to come out of this pandemic with these and other good paying jobs which signals a bright future in aviation even with the current challenges the industry faces. Manufacturers know they can count on our



Fencing Manufacturer to Create 142 New Jobs in Rowan County

Eastern Wholesale Fence, LLC, a New York-based fence manufacturing company, will create 142 jobs in Rowan County **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (October 27). The company will invest \$17.5 million to create a manufacturing center of excellence in Salisbury to better fulfill demand for their product.

"The North Carolina economy continues to grow manufacturing jobs, despite public health and economic challenges," said **Governor Cooper**. "This means companies like Eastern Wholesale Fence choose to expand in our state because of the talented workforce and effective management of the pandemic."

Founded in 1971, Eastern Wholesale Fence is an extruder, manufacturer, and distributor of commercial and residential fence products. The company's new manufacturing center in North Carolina will distribute their vinyl, ornamental, chain link, wood, and decorative fencing fabricate materials for the eastern portion of the United States.

"Eastern Wholesale Fence is extremely excited to be expanding into our new Salisbury operation to better fulfill the needs of our customers," said **Peter Williams Jr, Chief Executive Officer for Eastern Wholesale Fence**. "We greatly appreciate the support from the State of North Carolina, Rowan County, and the City of Salisbury on this expansion project, and we look forward to being an involved corporate citizen in our new community."

"Advanced manufacturers of all kinds find their future in our state because of our talent, location, affordable cost structure and access

strong workforce, our innovation and our leadership in uncertain times," said **Governor Cooper**.

Pratt & Whitney, a unit of Raytheon Technologies Corporation, is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft and helicopter engines, and auxiliary power units. The new project in Asheville will lead to the development of a new 1,000,000 square foot advanced manufacturing facility.

"This investment will enable Pratt & Whitney to continue to modernize and transform its operations with cutting-edge technologies," said **Chris Calio, president, Pratt & Whitney**. "Turbine airfoils are a critical component across our engine portfolio and demand will increase significantly as the market recovers over the next several years. We need to invest today to ensure that we have the infrastructure, production capabilities and workforce in place to meet future market demand and provide the best products to our customers worldwide. We are grateful for the support provided by the State of North Carolina and the local community."

"North Carolina's leadership in aerospace may have started with the Wright Brothers, but make no mistake, this industry is a vibrant part of our state's modern economy, as today's announcement proves," said **Secretary Copeland**. "We welcome Pratt & Whitney's new investment in North Carolina."

Although wages will vary depending on position, the average annual salary for all the new positions is planned to reach \$68,000. The current average wage in Buncombe County is \$43,134. Once all the new positions announced today are filled, a \$54 million payroll impact will be felt in the area economy each and every year.



Secretary Copeland (left) and officials from Asheville and Buncombe County participated in a socially-distanced event at the Grove Park Inn.

Pratt & Whitney's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the course of its 12-year grant term, N.C. Commerce economists estimate the project could grow the state's economy by \$7.4 billion.

Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$15,543,000, paid over 12 years.

Pratt & Whitney's JDIG agreement also could move as much as \$5,181,000 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account for use by rural communities elsewhere in the state. The Utility Account helps finance necessary infrastructure upgrades in more economically challenged areas of the state to attract future business.

Partnering with the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. on this

to high-growth consumer markets," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Eastern Wholesale Fence is a leading name in the building-products industry, and we look forward to supporting their long-range business strategy."

The company's 142 new jobs will include engineers, technicians, operators, managers, and administrative support staff. The average annual salary for all new positions is \$46,109, creating a potential payroll impact of more than \$6.5 million per year. Rowan County's overall average annual wage is \$43,883.

A 12-year Job Development Investment Grant could yield the company up to \$1,078,200. Because Eastern Wholesale Fence is locating to Tier 2 Rowan County, the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$119,800 into the state's Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account. The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business. Even when new jobs are created in a Tier 2 county such as Rowan, the new tax revenue generated through JDIG grants helps more economically challenged communities elsewhere in the state.

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina General Assembly, North Carolina Community College System, Rowan County, Rowan EDC, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Duke Energy, CSX, Norfolk Southern, and North Carolina Railroad.

Plastics Manufacturer Selects Catawba County for New Operations at Upgraded Facility in Newton

RMC Advanced Technologies, Inc. ("RMC"), a manufacturer of molded plastic and composite parts, will develop a new manufacturing operation in Newton, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 15. The company will invest to expand a facility previously used for plastics manufacturing.

"In these challenging times, North Carolina continues to attract leading manufacturers like RMC because of our strong workforce, our commitment to economic development and the state's ability to manage a crisis well," said **Governor Cooper**. "Manufacturers know they have a strong partner in our state so we'll continue to see more new jobs."

RMC, part of the Composites Division of Quebec-based NanoXplore Inc., is a solutions-driven, customer-focused manufacturer of molded plastic and composite parts and assemblies. RMC

project were the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Duke Energy Carolinas, the Golden LEAF Foundation, Buncombe County, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Community Betterment Foundation, and the Economic Development Coalition of Asheville and Buncombe County.

Drywall Manufacturer to Expand with a \$5 Million Investment in Monroe

Hamilton Drywall Products, a manufacturer of drywall finishing products, will create 34 new jobs in Union County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 14. The company will invest \$5 million to locate a regional headquarters and production facility in Monroe.

"Even during a pandemic, another manufacturer is choosing to expand their operations in North Carolina. Companies like Hamilton Drywall are confident in our workforce and our ability to manage the crisis, making our state a great partner for businesses that are growing," said **Governor Cooper**.

Hamilton Drywall Products manufactures a varied collection of compounds, textures, and metal trims that are distributed through dealers and national retailers. The company will expand to a 98,000-square-foot manufacturing facility which will serve the company's growing customer base in the eastern United States.

"We look forward to establishing a permanent base of operations in North Carolina and having a positive impact on the Monroe community," said **Mark Hamilton, General Manager of Hamilton Drywall Products**. "We are thankful for the state and local support for this project and are excited to invest not only in future growth, but also in the people of Union County."

"North Carolina's convenient proximity to lucrative consumer markets helps connect companies like Hamilton Drywall to their strategic goals," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Congratulations to the company and its employees on the success that has led to this significant expansion."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce led a team of partners in supporting Hamilton Drywall's decision to expand in North Carolina. Salaries for the operations and management staff will vary, but the average annual salary for all new positions could reach up to \$45,059 creating a payroll impact of more than \$1.5 million per year. Union County's overall average annual wage is \$44,989.

A performance-based grant of \$50,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Hamilton Drywall Product's relocation.

In addition to the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina Community College System, Union County Board of Commissioners, Monroe City Council, Monroe-Union Economic Development, and City of Monroe.

develops technologies, product designs and new manufacturing concepts that provide superior services and products to customers. The company's technology specializes in processes that support high-volume, high-speed, and large surface-area molding.

In Newton, RMC will expand a facility that once housed Continental Structural Plastics Inc. The vision for the new operation includes adding a full paint line and other production capabilities, which will enable expanded production shifts, output, and future growth.

"RMC Advanced Technologies is extremely excited to have acquired and, in quick order, to be expanding our new Newton operation to better fulfill the needs of our North American customers," said **Ali Karnib, Vice President of Operations – Composite Business Unit**. "We greatly appreciate the support from the State of North Carolina, Catawba County, and the City of Newton on this expansion project and we look forward to being an involved corporate citizen in our new community."

"North Carolina welcomes RMC to the state's community of manufacturers, the top state for these companies in the Southeast," said **Secretary of Commerce Tony Copeland**. "Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Carolina economy is still humming and creating jobs."

Through the project period of 4-5 years, the new jobs may create a payroll impact in the local community of more than \$3.57 million per year, pending new business awards to the company.

A performance-based grant of \$150,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate RMC's project in North Carolina. The grant is contingent on the company creating 80 jobs and investing \$7.1 million in the project.

In addition to the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Catawba County Community College, the City of Newton, Catawba County Government, and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation.



Industrial Textile Manufacturer to Invest \$4.5 Million in Mount Airy



North Carolina Ports Continues to Make History, Welcomes Largest Container Ship

The North Carolina State Ports Authority set a record Monday by welcoming the largest container ship to date to call the Port of Wilmington. The Yang Ming Warranty sailed into Wilmington with a carrying capacity of 14,220 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) and is the largest class vessel calling on the United States East Coast.

"North Carolina Ports continues to prove it is an attractive global gateway for shippers. The arrival of the Yang Ming Warranty further solidifies our position as a big ship ready port. We are capable of working the largest container vessels calling on the East Coast," said **Brian E. Clark, Chief Operating Officer, North Carolina Ports**. "As our capabilities continue to expand so will our abilities to better serve existing and future customers."

The arrival of the YM Warranty highlights North Carolina Ports' commitment to its more than \$200 million capital improvements plan. Its visit follows the completion of four major projects aimed at improving access for 14,000+ TEU container ships to the Port of Wilmington. Earlier this year, NC Ports completed phase two of its turning basin expansion project; opened 2,600 contiguous feet of container berth space; and completed an air draft improvement project which increased the air draft over the Cape Fear River. Additionally, the Ports Authority welcomed three neo-Panamax cranes in 2018 and 2019 specifically designed to work ultra-large container vessels.

[Read more at the N.C. Ports website.](#)

Texwipe, a global manufacturer of contamination control supplies, will create 33 new jobs in Surry County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced yesterday (October 26). The company will invest more than \$4.5 million to locate a manufacturing facility in Mount Airy.

"Our state's economy continues to grow, despite public health and economic challenges," said **Governor Cooper**. "Companies like Texwipe choose to grow in North Carolina's because of our talented workforce and our state's strong management of the pandemic."

Texwipe has been headquartered in Kernersville, N.C. since 1991. The manufacturer is an innovative leader in contamination control supplies and critical cleaning products for life sciences, semiconductor, and other industries requiring critical manufacturing environments.

"We are thankful for the support from the City of Mount Airy, Surry County, and the State of North Carolina, and look forward to our expansion and the new career opportunities it will bring to the community," said **Luke Grant, Business Unit Manager of Texwipe**.

"Texwipe is an important part of our life sciences supply chain, and the company's expansion brings exciting benefits on several levels," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "North Carolina's many advantages as a business destination support the success of innovation-minded manufacturers as they embrace expanded market opportunities."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce led a team of partners in supporting Texwipe's decision to expand their manufacturing footprint in North Carolina. The new positions include production, maintenance and managerial staff. The average annual salary for all new positions will vary creating a payroll impact of more than \$1.2 million per year.

A performance-based grant of \$75,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Texwipe's expansion.

In addition to the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina Community College System, Surry Community College, Surry County, Surry County Economic Development Partnership, City of Mount Airy, and Duke Energy.

On Our Radar

- [RDU, hurting for traffic, dangles incentives to lure back international flights](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - October 15)

N.C. in the News

- [Pratt & Whitney chooses lower-cost North Carolina -- not Connecticut -- to build a \\$650 million manufacturing plant](#) (*Hartford Courant* - October 26)
- [NC ranks high in the U.S. for its business climate, according to new survey](#) (*WNCT-TV* - October 26)
- [Martin Co. receives almost \\$1 million for COVID-19 assistance](#) (*WCTI-TV* - New Bern - October 19)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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